

June 6, 2008

**Obey SAYS LATEST JOB NUMBERS SHOW
THE NEED FOR EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

Calls on Administration to Reconsider its Opposition

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) released the following statement today after the Department of Labor reported that the U.S. economy lost 49,000 jobs in May - the largest single month loss in over twenty years. The economy has lost nearly 325,000 jobs since the beginning of the year:

"The disturbing increase in unemployment numbers released today makes clear that the Bush Administration should reverse its opposition to our efforts to extend unemployment benefits to workers who have been out of work so long they've exhausted their benefits.

It should reverse its opposition to my efforts to expand healthcare coverage for those who've lost their insurance because they've lost their jobs.

"And because so much of the economic turmoil we face is tied to what is happening with oil and gas prices, the Administration should take aggressive action to reduce speculation on oil markets, and it should support a greatly expanded effort to develop alternative energy sources.

"The simple truth is we are paying these energy prices today because, since the day Jimmy Carter walked out of the White House, the federal government has been disinvesting in alternative energy research and energy conservation. □ Just last year, the Administration resisted virtually every major effort my Committee made to strengthen those research programs.

"The Administration needs to rethink their opposition."

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